

**Amanda Tainio**

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**From:** Doug Smith [dsmith@libertylakewa.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, December 08, 2006 4:37 PM  
**To:** Mary Wren  
**Cc:** Amanda Tainio  
**Subject:** FW: UGA comments

-----Original Message-----

**From:** birthsteps@aol.com [mailto:birthsteps@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, December 08, 2006 3:59 PM  
**To:** dsmith@libertylakewa.gov  
**Subject:** UGA comments

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TO: Doug Smith, Director  
Liberty Lake Planning and Community Development Department  
27710 E Country Vista Drive  
City of Liberty Lake, WA 99019

FROM: Scott and Heidi Conant  
2002 S Henry Rd  
PO Box 54  
Greenacres, WA 99016-0054

RE: Comments related to the City of Liberty Lake Draft Environmental Impact  
Statement Urban Growth Boundaries (DEIS)

Dear Mr. Smith,

1 { We appreciate the opportunity to offer comments regarding the proposed expansion of the City of Liberty Lake UGA. Although at this time we oppose the current UGA expansion proposal as noted below, it is reassuring that our input is as valuable to this planning process as those who have requested to be included in the UGA.

As concerned citizens as well as potentially affected property owners, we request that the City of Liberty Lake Planning Commission recommend **only** Alternative #1.

2 { Our concerns range from the specific issues related to Class A affluent to Transportation. We realize that the DEIS is in effect only a general document, however we feel the impacts of the alternatives are much too significant not to have gone in to much more specific detail.

We are concerned with most notably alternatives #2, #4 and #6 as they include valuable and sensitive wetland and floodplain and we cannot see how inclusion of such area can be considered a *reasonable* alternative for future urban zoning. The potential negative impacts to the current drainage of the Saltese Flats does not appear to have been considered or at least answered in great enough detail.

1 - Again, we urge you to NOT approve any alternatives other than #1.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Scott and Heidi Conant

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**Response to Scott and Heidi Conant:**

- 1) Not a comment on the adequacy of the DEIS, but rather an expression of a preference for a particular planning outcome.
- 2) The DEIS broadly examines the impacts of a range of strategies for accommodating projected growth. This is a Non-project DEIS, and the concerns of the writer cannot be addressed until and if specific project applications are received. Further environmental review will occur at that time.

01/15/2018

TO: SEPA Responsible Official, City of Liberty Lake  
Doug Smith, Director  
Liberty Lake Planning and Community Development Department  
27710 E. Country Vista Drive  
City of Liberty Lake, WA 99019

Received By  
City of Liberty Lake

DEC 06 2006

City Clerk/Treasurer  
Initials 

FROM: Linda and Myles Dewey  
906 North Homestead Drive  
Liberty Lake, WA 99019

Date: December 5, 2006

RE: Written testimony: The Liberty Lake Draft Environmental Impact Statement  
Urban Growth Boundaries (DEIS)

I am writing in response to the potential relocation to the Liberty Lake Urban Growth Boundary. My Husband and I agree with all the testimony as to the impact the expanding of the boundary will have on the entire region. We feel that it would be in the best interest of Liberty Lake to vote no on the proposed expansion to the boundary at this time.

I attended the last planning commission and was very surprised by the knowledge of the people attending the meeting that were currently opposed to the expansion of the UGA. It appears that they had done their "homework" and knew their facts.

As a community we must take into consideration all of the potential problems that may occur if we act too quickly.

Patty Weiser addressed the school issue, and had all the statistics needed to understand that we are in a desperate situation concerning our school district. We all understand that since the bond did not pass there will not be any new schools built in the near future. We already have enough development going on with Rocky Hill, Liberty Lake Village, and the River District to fill at least another elementary school and another middle school.

Other folks spoke about the impact on our wonderful wildlife and our gorgeous scenery; These things need to be taken into consideration if we are to maintain a quality lifestyle in Liberty Lake.

It appears more study needs to be done concerning sewer, water, watershed, and the effect that new development would have on our environment.

The planning commission of Liberty Lake, WA has a wonderful opportunity to shape our future. We have a beautiful community, and you have done a wonderful job by planning parks and all the open spaces we currently enjoy. Our community is at a crossroads, and to a certain extent our fate is in your capable hands. It seems that if we address our current growth with all that is already planned it will take all of

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your time and expertise to insure that it is done correctly. We must find solutions to the school issue, our infrastructure and our environment and fragile lake before we should even consider expanding our UGA.

There is an old saying that "Haste Makes Waste". If the planning commission rushes into a decision to expand the boundary before the community is ready it will be a serious mistake for our community, and for future generations. As the issues facing you are resolved, you will have another opportunity to expand the UGA. As a planning commission you can leave a lasting legacy to our community to insure that we will always have a beautiful place to live and raise our children and grandchildren. You need to insure that all of the components are in place before you make the decision to expand the UGA. You have time on your side. When there is such a special place as Liberty Lake and surrounding areas we need to take the time as a community to make sure we get it right. Please make sure you have all the information you need before you make a quick decision.

We all appreciate the opportunity to make our voices heard concerning the development of Liberty Lake. We are all working for the same outcome-To make Liberty Lake one of the finest communities in the Northwest to call home.

As a footnote I would like to state that we live in the newer section of Liberty Lake in "The Cottages" of Meadowwood. We realize we wouldn't be here if it hadn't been for development. We are not against growth. We just want our community to take it's time to develop before we expand the UGA.

Sincerely,



Myles and Linda Dewey  
906 North Homestead Drive  
Liberty Lake, WA 99019



**Response to Myles and Linda Dewey:**

- 1) Not a comment on the adequacy of the DEIS, but rather an expression of a preference for a particular planning outcome.**
- 2) This is a Non-project DEIS, and the concerns of the writer cannot be addressed until and if specific project applications are received. Further environmental review will occur at that time.**

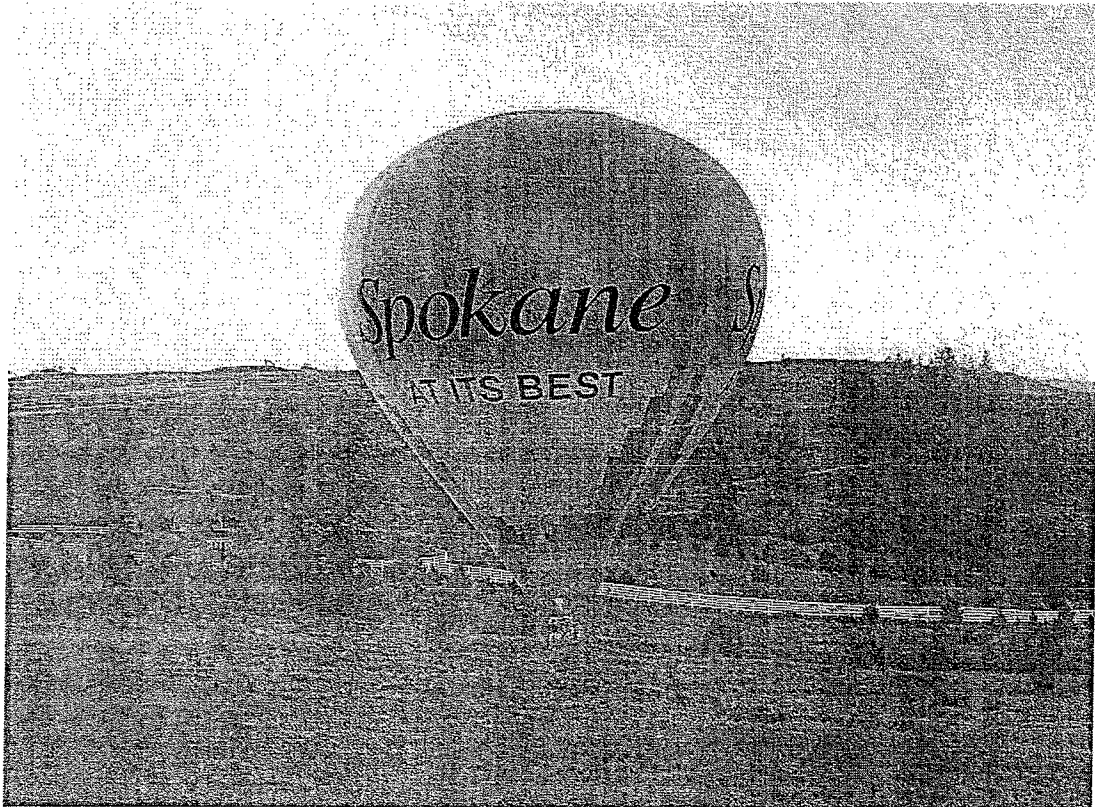
## A Request For Denial Of The Proposed Expansion Of The Urban Growth Boundary In Liberty Lake

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Keith Harris. My wife Jan and I own one house on ten acres in the most western part of Wicomico. This area is the original and longstanding subdivision in Liberty Lake. We have lived in Liberty Lake for 30 years and have owned this property since 1994.

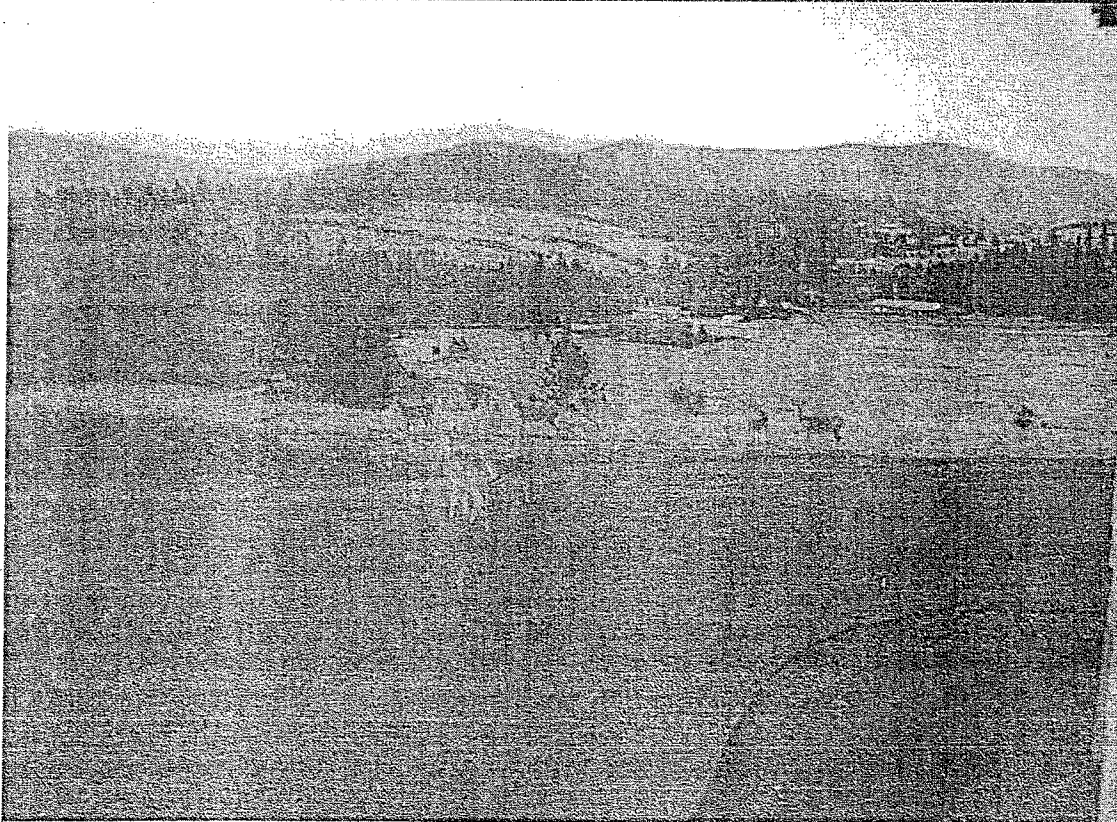
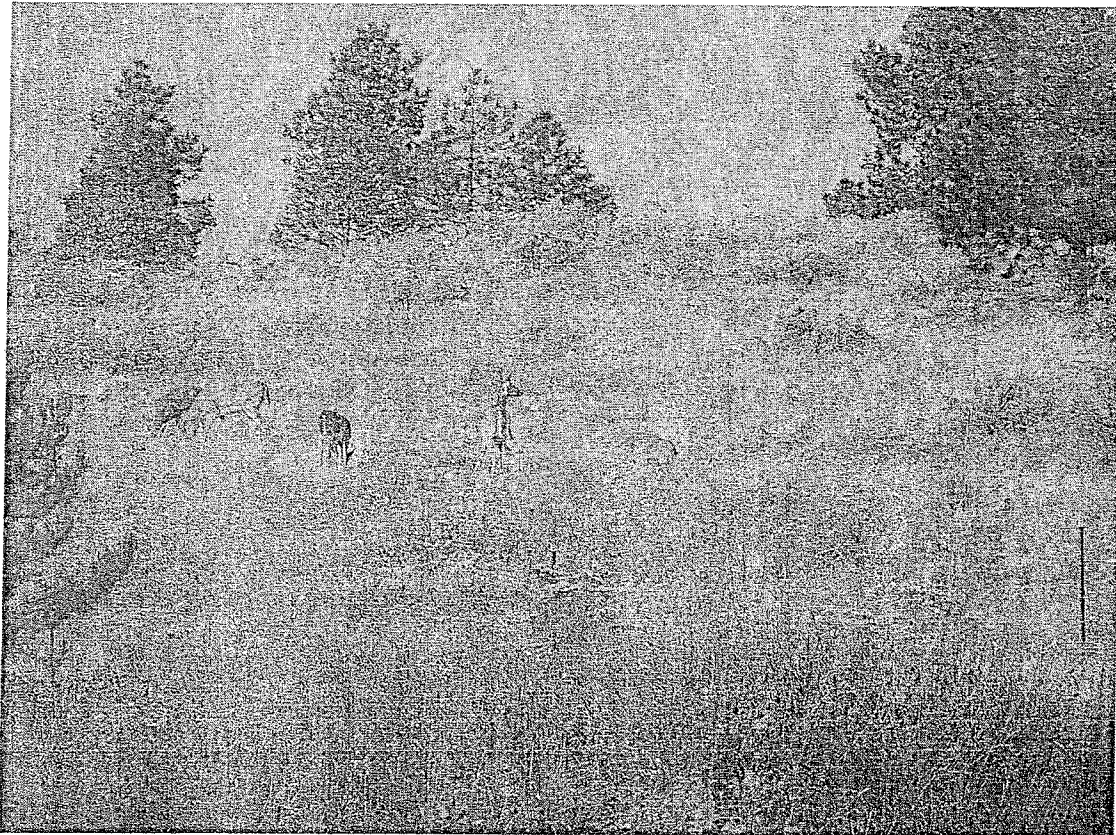
The eastern border of the proposed Urban Growth Boundary cuts through the center of our property. **We urge you to DENY the request to expand the Urban Growth Boundary.**

As an amateur photographer I have had the opportunity to record wildlife and changes in their patterns during my residency here. My primary concern is the basin which is part of the Liberty Lake drainage. It is one of the most natural, vibrant, and living areas in Eastern Washington and must be preserved to keep Liberty Lake "Spokane at its Best"!



For years it has been known that this area is rich in wildlife. That is exactly the reason it has been designated a wildlife corridor. But it is more! It is an entire ecosystem that supports a wide variety of animal life. It is a fragile resource that needs to be appreciated, respected and supported or this special gift will be lost.

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The Liberty Lake Basin is a self sustained ecosystem. The insects, frogs and field mice provide sustenance for a wide variety of animals. Snakes, rabbits, porcupine, skunks, raccoons and weasels thrive here.





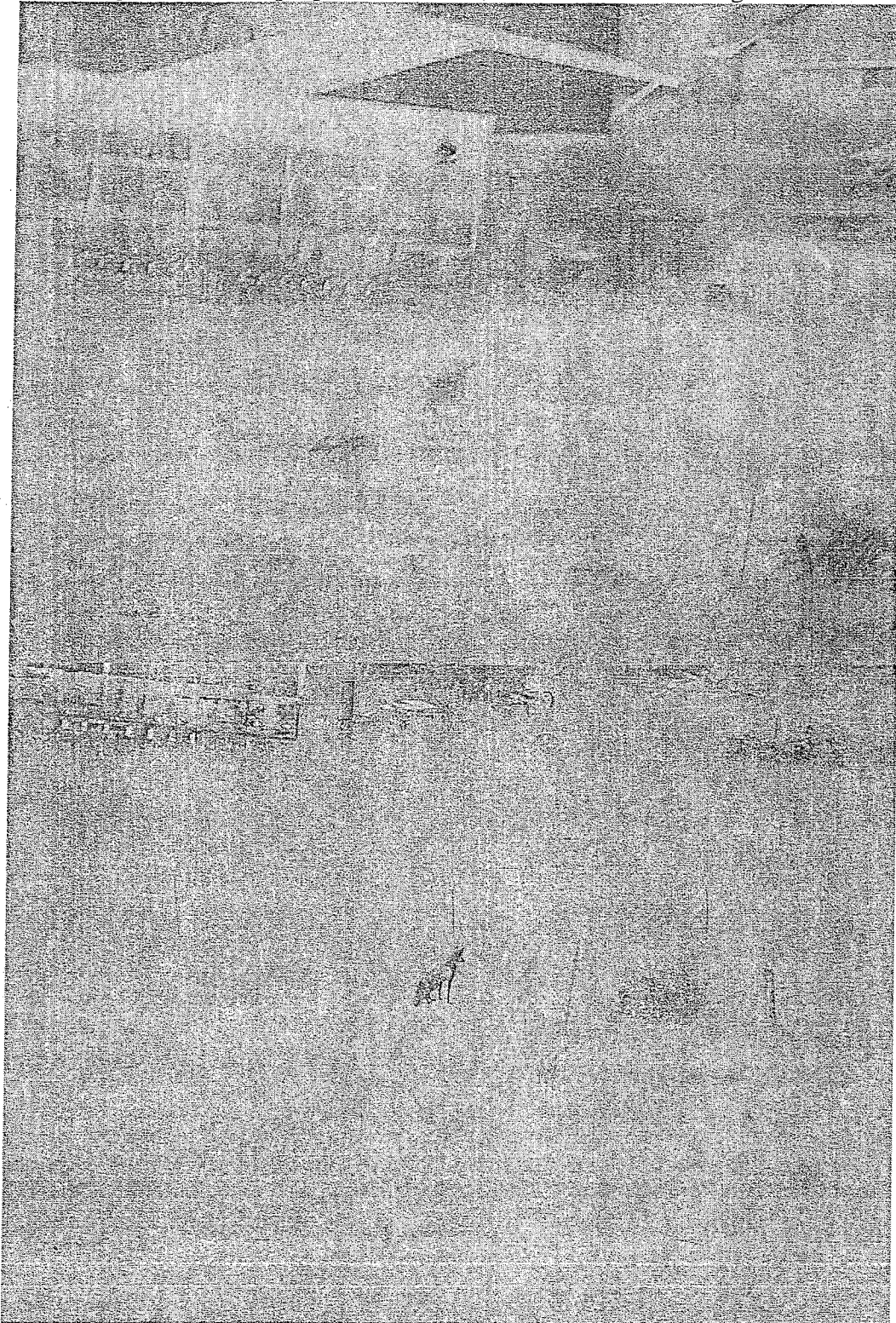
The foraging animals such as White Tail Deer, Mule Deer, Elk, and Moose have all been seen here. It is true that some of these species use this proposed growth area as a corridor, however, there are populations that live here year around and use this land to go through full life cycles.



Larger carnivores use the proposed UGA both as a corridor and as a year around residence. The full-time residents include coyotes, foxes, and weasels. Bear and cougar



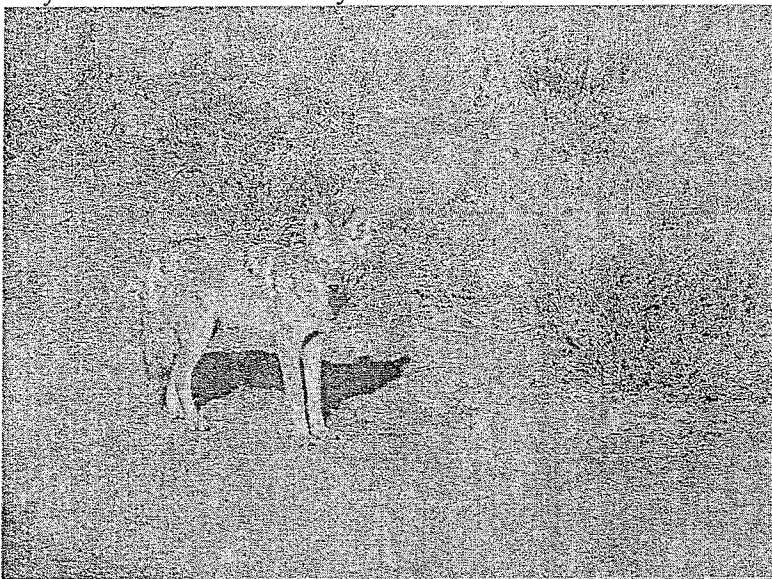
sightings have been documented. I personally witnessed a Black fox unsuccessfully stalking a deer in the proposed UGA. He later settled for dining on a field mouse.



This last summer a juvenile Black Fox made his first appearance.

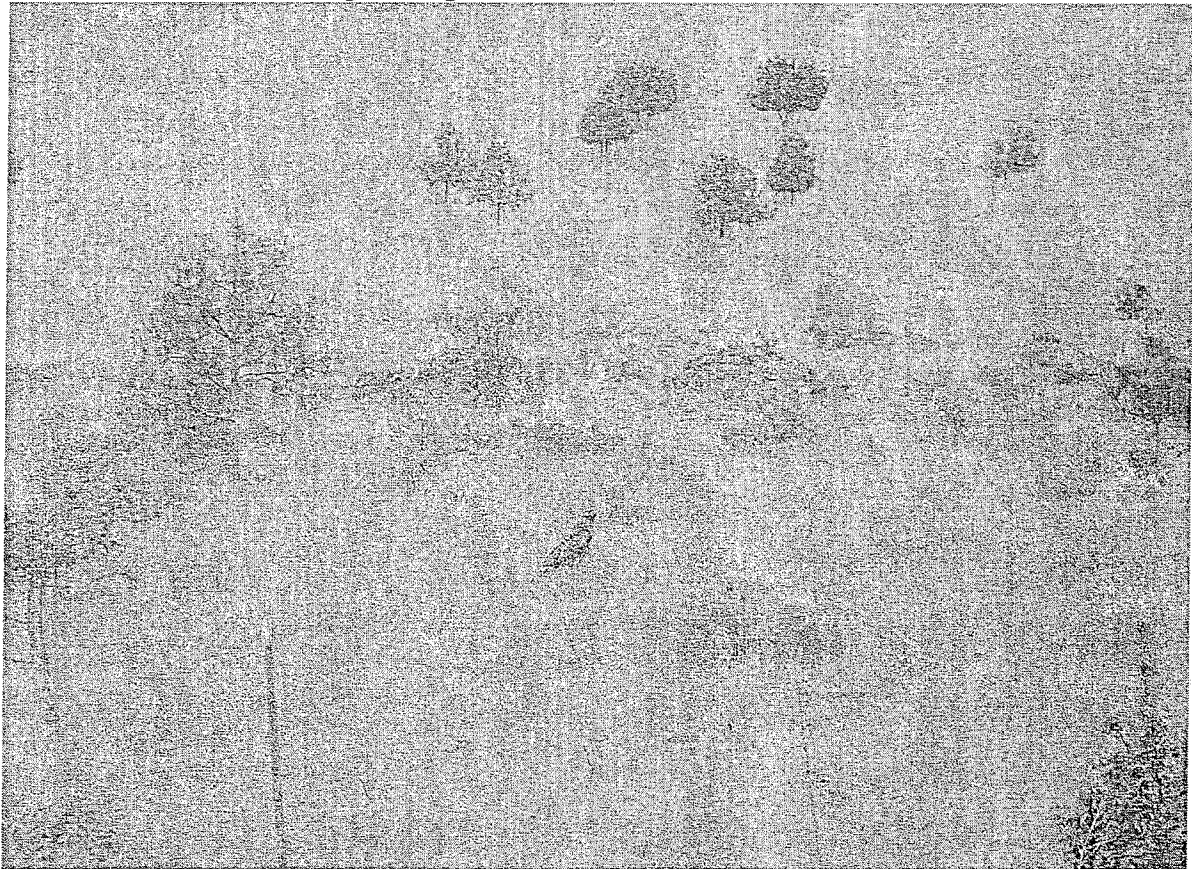


Coyotes live in the UGA year around.



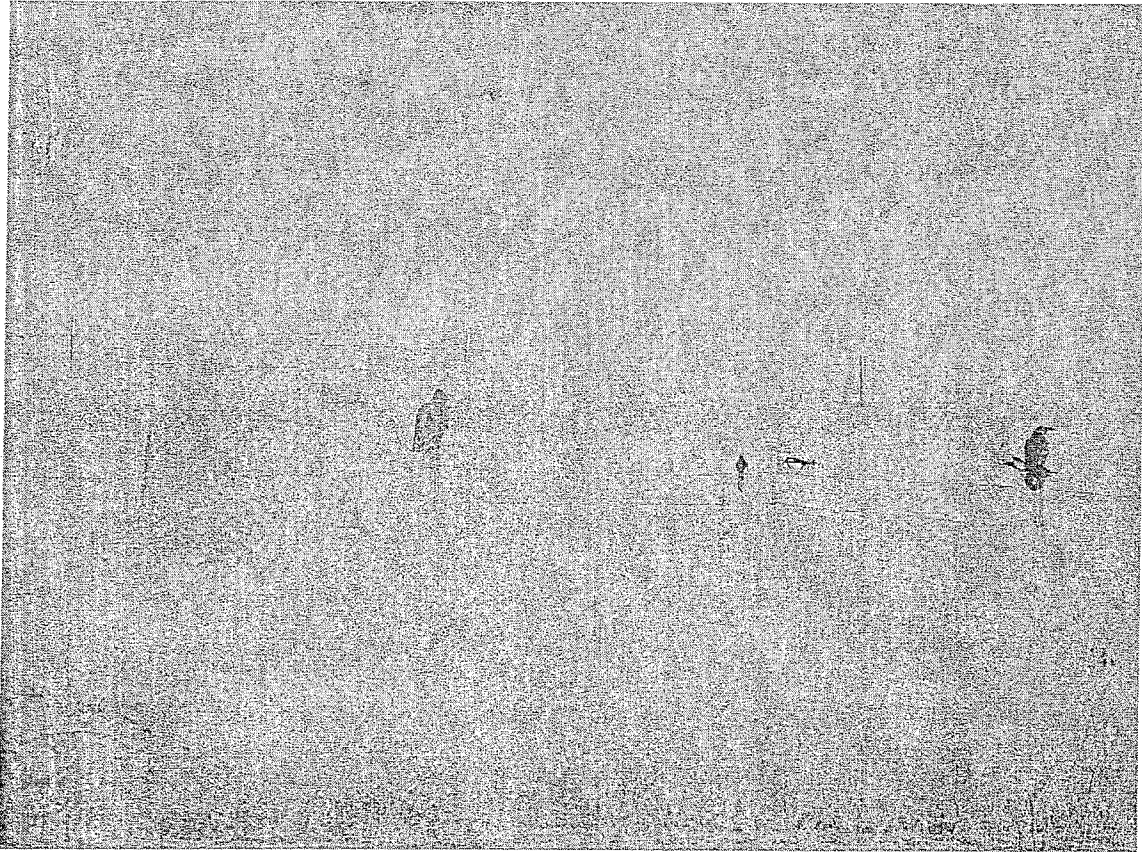
The glorious Birds of Prey that grace the Liberty Lake sky use this Proposed UGA as a PRIMARY hunting ground. There is an abundant population of Red Tailed Hawks that nest and hunt in the area. Great Horned Owls, various kestrels and hawks, Turkey Vultures, Ravens, Bald Eagles, and Osprey are all seen there. I observed a red tail hawk guarding his kill of a rabbit. The rabbit was too heavy for him to fly off with so he proceeded to fly into a nearby tree and watch as a family of magpies moved in to eat the rabbit. After they had lightened the rabbit up a bit the Hawk swooped down and flew away with the remaining portion.

This Red Tailed Hawk is guarding his rabbit kill.





A Turkey Vulture shares the fence with Magpies and a Raven.



The proposed UGA is home for an abundance of smaller song birds and is a corridor for migratory birds as well. Blue Birds, Grosbeaks, Wild Turkeys, Grouse, Pheasants, Quail, and Sandpipers, are only a few. I personally sighted a Pileated Woodpecker within the Liberty lake drainage on the south side of the lake and have seen rare Northern Harriers hunting in the proposed UGA.

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## A Wild Turkey Family



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It is important to note that for most of the 30 years that we have lived in Liberty Lake sightings of some of these animals were rare. When the Legacy Ridge development destroyed hundreds of acres of habitat it forced many animals to expose themselves while searching for new homes. We never saw a fox at Liberty Lake for 29 years. This year we

saw three. For 28 years we never saw a Wild Turkey here. Now they are seen in places where they would not normally frequent.

To take the remaining habitat in the Liberty Lake basin and make it an Urban Growth Area would be the desecration of a rich and wonderful Washington State resource. It would destroy the ecosystem that supports so much life. It would also destroy the essence of what makes Liberty Lake the special place which has drawn people to it for over a century.



We realize that our ten acres divided into 40 building lots and sold could be financially rewarding. We also know that for the benefit of our children and our community we would prefer not to do that. What we have within the proposed UGA is worth more! The families who have spent generations living here understand this. Please don't reduce what we all value and share about Liberty Lake into another high density housing development.

Please deny the request to extend the Urban Growth Boundary.

Keith W. Harris

November 26, 2006

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**Response to Keith Harris:**

**Not a comment on the adequacy of the DEIS, but rather an expression of concern for various issues and a preference for a particular planning outcome.**

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Received By  
City of Liberty Lake

DEC 08 2006

City Clerk/Treasurer  
Initials \_\_\_\_\_

December 7, 2006

DEIS Comments  
Planning and Community Development Dept.  
22710 E Country Vista Dr  
Liberty Lake, WA 99019

Dear Planning Commission:

I respectfully request ALTERNATIVE 1 – NO ACTION on the Liberty Lake UGA Boundary Extension for the following reasons. }

Why is a decision of this magnitude being rushed? Making this kind of decision that will affect every person and every bit of wildlife, water and land in our area FOREVER in 6 weeks is absurd and irresponsible. Proposing this during the holidays when citizens are apt to be involved with the holidays, makes me wonder if it was scheduled that way in hopes of getting the UGA boundary extension approved quickly and quietly.

Every citizen from Sullivan road to the Idaho State line and Otis Orchards should have a say in this UGA matter because it will drastically affect quality of life (for the worse) for everyone in the area. The comment period should last for at least a year to allow every citizen time to study the Draft EIS and research it thoroughly and officially comment on it. Many more meetings would need to be held as well at various times (not during work hours) and at a place conducive (a larger meeting room) to a large group of citizens (not in the little City Hall). A decision as huge as this should be an entire community process and it is ridiculous to think it can be accomplished proficiently in 6 weeks. The City of Liberty Lake should also provide mailings of meetings and other relevant information during the year long (or more) education/comment period to every property owner and voter within this area. People would feel included instead of feeling like “government trying to pull a fast one”. 2

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I also question why City of Liberty Lake prepares their own EIS. Who does all the research and input and where are all the footnotes for all the statistical data proving this information as fact? Were other independent, impartial agencies such as Department of Wildlife and Washington State Dept. of Ecology involved? Or is the information just from the City of Liberty Lake prepared in the last couple of months? For instance, in section 2.5, Map 2-9 makes me question where the data came from. There's no official, independent, impartial source on that map. It's pretty ironic the large "white area" where there is supposedly "no priority wildlife" according to this map also happens to be much of the area of the proposed SW UGA Boundary extension (south of Legacy Ridge). In my opinion, any and all wildlife and its habitat is THE priority-- no matter where it is and no matter who wants to develop in that habitat.

I think the City of Liberty Lake should allow very dense development within their current UGA. Wait until the entire Legacy Ridge is plastered with houses. Then, see if they really like everything about it—the out of control traffic, crime, cranky, arrogant people, pollution, litter, ugly mountainside stripped of all natural vegetation covered in oversized houses, extinct wildlife, ugly signs, not seeing the sunsets or the stars at night because of too many lights, mandatory home schooling or busing, threatened Lake and Aquifer, and much more expensive water, sewer and other services-- and *then* decide if they really want to wreck the Liberty Lake environment any further and decide if it's really a premier place to live anymore.

Remember there's no going back. We don't want to mess this up. It's currently a nice small-town place to live. Let's keep it that way. So PLEASE recommend ALTERNATIVE 1-NO ACTION on the Liberty Lake UGA Boundary Extension.

Thanks for your consideration,

LeAnne Harris  
24416 E 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Liberty Lake, WA 99019

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**Response to LeAnne Harris:**

- 1) Not a comment on the adequacy of the DEIS, but rather an expression of a preference for a particular planning outcome.
- 2) The City of Liberty Lake has met all SEPA notice and commenting periods required by state law as adopted in the City of Liberty Lake Development Code, Chapter 6 Environment, section 6A-11, pages 6-21 through 6-22.
- 3) It is a common and accepted practice that agencies prepare their own EISs for agency actions. The DEIS that was prepared by the City of Liberty Lake for the UGA boundary alternatives meets all requirements for state law and sufficiently addresses items for this non-project action.

Included in the DEIS Appendix C Reference List are the sources for each of the GIS maps used in the DEIS. Specifically, the sources for Map 2.9 on page 2-32 are Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Spokane County.

12-7-06

Received By  
City of Liberty Lake

DEC 08 2006

DEIS  
Planning & Community Development  
22710 E Country Vista  
Liberty Lake WA 99019

City Clerk/Treasurer  
Initials \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Planning Commission:

Please don't allow The City of Liberty Lake encroach on rural land and ruin the entire region, ecologically, economically, aesthetically, and logistically.

In the 60 years I've owned property out here at the Lake, I have seen the wildlife change (for the worse). In 1948 there were hundreds of baby frogs clinging to the front window summer evenings. The chorus of frogs in the wetlands behind our house was deafening during the summer evenings. Thirty seven years ago when my kids were ten or so, there were a few frogs on the front windows waiting for bugs (about 10 baby frogs per summer) and it was a big deal to the kids. Well, we haven't seen any frogs for many years and there hasn't been a single croak in the swamp in the last 5 years. It's eerily quiet. This is what over development does. Let the developers take their crowded urban developments to areas of the country where people don't care about the environment and quality of life like we do here. Approving any of the UGA Boundary Alternatives will irreparably harm the region.

Please have some respect for the citizens/taxpayers who have funded this area over the last 60 years (The Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District, Roads, Schools, Golf Courses etc) and decide ALTERNATIVE 1 - NO ACTION on expanding the UGA Boundary at Liberty Lake.

Thanks for your consideration,

Maxine Harris  
24416 E Third Ave  
Liberty Lake, WA 99019

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**Response to Maxine Harris:**

**Not a comment on the adequacy of the DEIS, but rather an expression of concern for various issues and a preference for a particular planning outcome.**